

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 045366

NODIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM KINSHASHA QUOTE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1663

NODIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF ISA/DSAA, CAIRO FOR UNDERSECRETARY
ROBINSON AND PLS BRING TO AMB CUTLER'S ATTENTION

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, CG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 1600, USEUCOM 3417

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF AIDE MEMOIRE PRESENTED
BY MOBUTU TO UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON. COMMENTS FOLLOW
BY SEPTEL.

QUOTE: SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT FOR FAZ.

1. EACH TIME WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ACQUIRE MODERN EQUIPMENT
FOR OUR ARMED FORCES, OUR FRIENDS (READ US) HAVE OFFERED
THE FOLLOWING COUNSEL:

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A. THE THREAT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY THE

EXPENDITURE OF SO MUCH MONEY;
B. CERTAIN EQUIPMENT (BECAUSE OF ITS EXCESSIVE WEIGHT)
COULD NOT BE EMPLOYED ON AFRICAN SOIL. ADDITIONALLY THE
EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE USED BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF A COMMUNI-
CATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

2. AS A RESULT OF RECENT EVENTS IN ANGOLA ALL THESE FACTS
HAVE LOST THEIR VALIDITY AND NO LONGER OBTAIN. WE HAVE
JUST WITNESSED RUSSIAN AND CUBAN EMPLOYMENT ON ANGOLAN
SOIL OF:

--ARTILLERY, ROCKETS AND MISSILES;
-- HEAVY TANKS AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE T54'S AND T34'S;
--ARMED HELICOPTERS AND HEAVY TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS
--MIG 21-TYPE AIRCRAFT, ETC.

IN THE FACE OF THIS EVER-INCREASING THREAT ZAIRE CANNOT
REMAIN INACTIVE. ACCORDING THE EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH
THE FAZ IS ARMED MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT
SITUATION.

3. WITH REGARD TO GROUND FORCES, AT MY (MOBUTU'S) REQUEST A STUDY
WAS MADE BY GENERAL ROCKWELL, US ARMY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
DEVELOPING AND EQUIPPING AN INFANTRY DIVISION (NATO TYPE).
HOWEVER, I DESIRE THAT THIS DIVISION BE TOTALLY ARMED WITH
MEANS PERMITTING IT TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS AT
BRIGADE AND BATTALION LEVEL.

4. IN CONSEQUENCE, I DESIRE A CONSIDERABLE REINFORCEMENT
BRINGING TO TOTAL NUMBER OF BRIGADES TO FIVE INSTEAD OF
FOUR AND ELEVATING CERTAIN INDEPENDENT COMPANIES TO
INDEPENDENT BATTALIONS.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY THE FORECASTS
ARE A FUNCTION OF THE GEOPOLITICAL CONFIGURATION OF ZAIRE.
THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE FAZ ARE DETAILED BELOW:

(1) GROUND FORCES:

TO SUPPLEMENT REQUIREMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE ROCKWELL
ICEPORT.

A. 1 BDE HEAVY CAV 2 HEAVY TANK BN AND 1 MECH BN

01. HEAVY TANKS 110

02. TROOP TRANSPORT VEHICLES 50

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03. TANK RETRIEVER 10

04. TANK TRANSPORTER 10

05. TANK DESTROYER 20

06. ALL THE OTHER AUX MATERIEL,
ARMS, TRUCKS, ETC.

B. SIGNAL COMPANY JK TYPE ROCKWELL

C. LIGHT AVIATION CO. 1 TYPE ROCKWELL
D. MECH BDE 1 FOR SUPPRESSION OF MOTORIZED
INFANTRY

E. ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTER 1 THE OTHER BTRY WILL CONSIST
OF 35MM CANNONS W/RADAR

07. GROUND-AIR MISSILES 6 LAUNCHES LOW & MEDIUM ALTITUDE

F. ARTILLERY BRIGADE TO BE DETERMINED
08. HOWITZER 155 SP "
09. HOWITZER 8" SP "
10. CANON 175MM SP "
11. ROCKET LAUNCHERS "
12. GROUND-TO-GROUND MISSILES "

B. FOR DEFENSE OF SITES (INGA, KITONA, BANANA, MATADI
SOZAIK, MINING INSTALLATIONS OF SHABA)

13. GROUND-AIR MISSILES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER
OF UNITS TO BE DEPLOYED.
14. GROUND-GROUND MISSILES "
15. AA BTRY SS "

(2). AIGSFORCE

1. ARMED HELICOPTERS 20
2. TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS 24 HEAVY LIFT, CAPABLE OF SLING-LIFTING
3. INTERCEPTORS 30
4. RECON A/C 6
5. RADAR COVERAGE FOR ALL LONG, MEDIUM AND SHORT RANGE
ZAIRE

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TO BE DETERMINED
AFTER STUDY.

(3) NAVY FORCES 12 HEAVY PIECES
2. MINESWEEPERS 2 INSHORE (MST)
3. HARBOR TUG
U 2
4. COASTAL TUG 2
5. DESTROYERS (OR ESCORT VESSEL) 3
6. TORPEDO-LAUNCHERS (BOATS?) 3
7. LOGISTICS/RESUPPLY SUPPORT FACILITY 2
8. MISSILE LAUNCHING PATROL
BOATS (TYPE PG-84) 10
9. SURFACE SCANNING RADAR (LOW ALTITUDE) 2
10. AERIAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR 2

- 11. UNDERWATER DETECTION RADAR 2
- 12. LANDING CRAFT 10
- 13. AMPHIBIOUS HELICOPTERS 5

DICISION TYPE (WITH DESIRED REINFORCEMENTS)

COMPOSITION

- A 1 SINGAL BATTALION
- B. 1 LOGISTICS BATTULION
- C. 2 MECH BSUGADES
- D. 1 HEAVY CAV BRIGADE
- E. 1. AIR DEFENSE BATTALION
- F. 1 ENGINEER BN
- G. 1 ARTILLERY BRIGADE
- H. 1 LIGHT AVIATION BN (HELICOPTER & RECON)
- I. 1 LIGHT CAV BRIGADE

END QUOTE

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